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MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

August 1, 2006

EXTENSION OF EMANCIPATION SERVICES

Each year more than 4,000 youth emancipate from California's foster care system and most of these youth do not have the resources or support to succeed. Under existing law, aid is provided to foster children until the age of 18 years, but may be continued after the child's 18th birthday if the child is attending high school or an equivalent vocational or technical program, or is pursuing a high school equivalency certificate and meets other specified requirements.

Senate Bill 1289 (Cedillo) would allow a child who is in foster care and receiving AFDC-FC aid to continue to receive aid up to the age of 21, as long as the foster child is in attendance at a high school, university, community college, vocational or technical training program. This aid would continue only if the child is attending these academic programs or if the child is employed on a full-time or part-time basis.

This bill has been held in committee and is unlikely to be enacted into law this year. We need to make every effort to ensure that foster youth who emancipate from our County's foster care system are afforded every opportunity to achieve success and become fully contributing members of our society.

M O R E

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Children and Family Services and the Chief Administrative Office to work with, State Senator Gil Cedillo, other members of Los Angeles County's legislative delegation and the County Welfare Director's Association to sponsor much needed legislation to provide enhanced services to emancipated foster youth between the ages of 18 and 24 years.

#

MDA:rkrb

S:\Motion 2006\8-1-06 MOTION ON EXPANDING EMACIPATION PROGRAMS



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Chief Administrative Officer

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YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

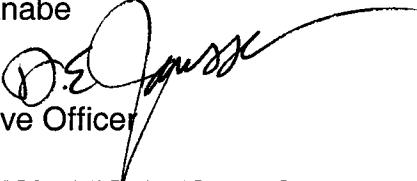
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

July 31, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen 
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SPONSOR LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ENHANCED SERVICES TO
EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 24
(ITEM NO. 76-A, SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA OF AUGUST 1, 2006)**

Item No. 76-A on the August 1, 2006 Supplemental Agenda is a motion by Mayor Antonovich directing the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Chief Administrative Office to work with Senator Cedillo, members of the Los Angeles County State Legislative delegation, and the County Welfare Director's Association to sponsor legislation to provide enhanced services to emancipated foster youth between 18 and 24 years of age.

Federal Title IV-E funding is not available for youths over 18 years of age. The Independent Living Program and the Transitional Housing Placement Plus Program (THP-Plus) provide housing, education, transportation, employment training, counseling and life skills training to assist former foster youth; however, these services are limited. As a result, former foster youth are more likely to experience poverty, low educational attainment, and unemployment than similar youth who were not in foster care.

Recently, the Legislature has taken the initiative to address issues in the foster care program. In 2005, the Speaker appointed the Assembly Select Committee on Foster Care which is chaired by Assembly Member Karen Bass. The committee conducted a series of hearings across the State taking testimony from former foster youth, relative caregivers and numerous child welfare advocates. As a result of these hearings, numerous bills to reform the child welfare and foster care programs were introduced in

Each Supervisor
July 31, 2006
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the Legislature in 2006. In addition, the Governor's budget includes an additional \$98 million for the Child Welfare Services Outcome Improvement Fund to improve child welfare outcomes. This includes \$8.2 million to eliminate the county share of cost for the THP-Plus Program to provide housing assistance for emancipated foster youth age 18 to 24. The Select Committee on Foster Care is expected to continue seeking reforms in the FY 2007 Legislative session.

Because Federal Title IV-E funds are not available for post emancipation services, any legislation the County considers for sponsorship to enhance services for former foster youth should avoid potential increased net county cost. It should also be noted that the Title IV-E waiver provides the County with greater flexibility to deliver child welfare services; however, the waiver caps Title IV-E funding. In addition, services for emancipated foster youth are not authorized under the waiver. DCFS notes that enhancing services to former foster youth would compliment the initiatives they are developing under the Title IV-E waiver to reduce placement and increase permanency for children in foster care. Together, these efforts will improve the lives of vulnerable children in Los Angeles, and we concur. Sponsoring legislation to enhance services for youth transitioning from foster care is consistent with existing Board policy to **support legislation and funding to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.**

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:VE:cc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Director, Department of Children and Family Services